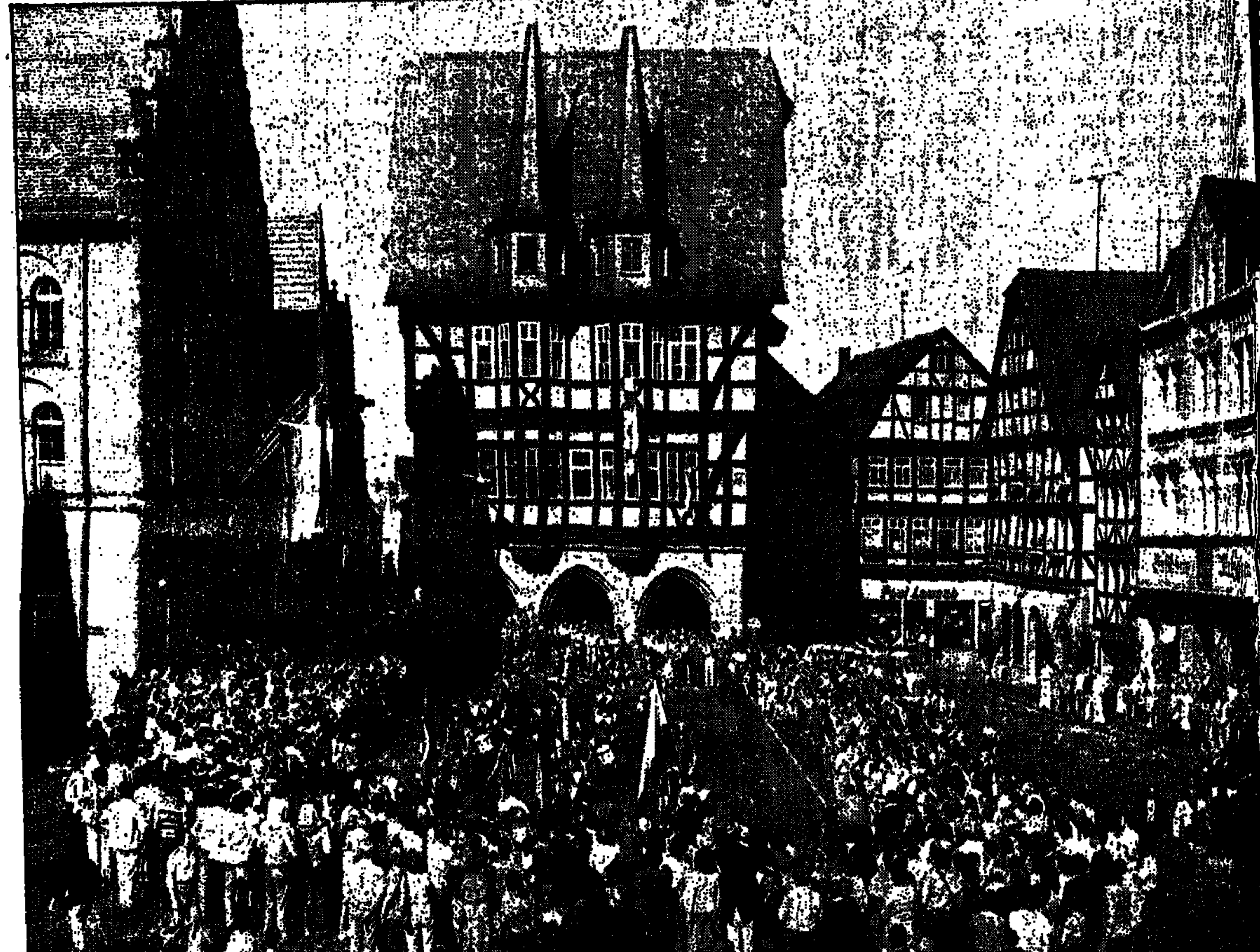
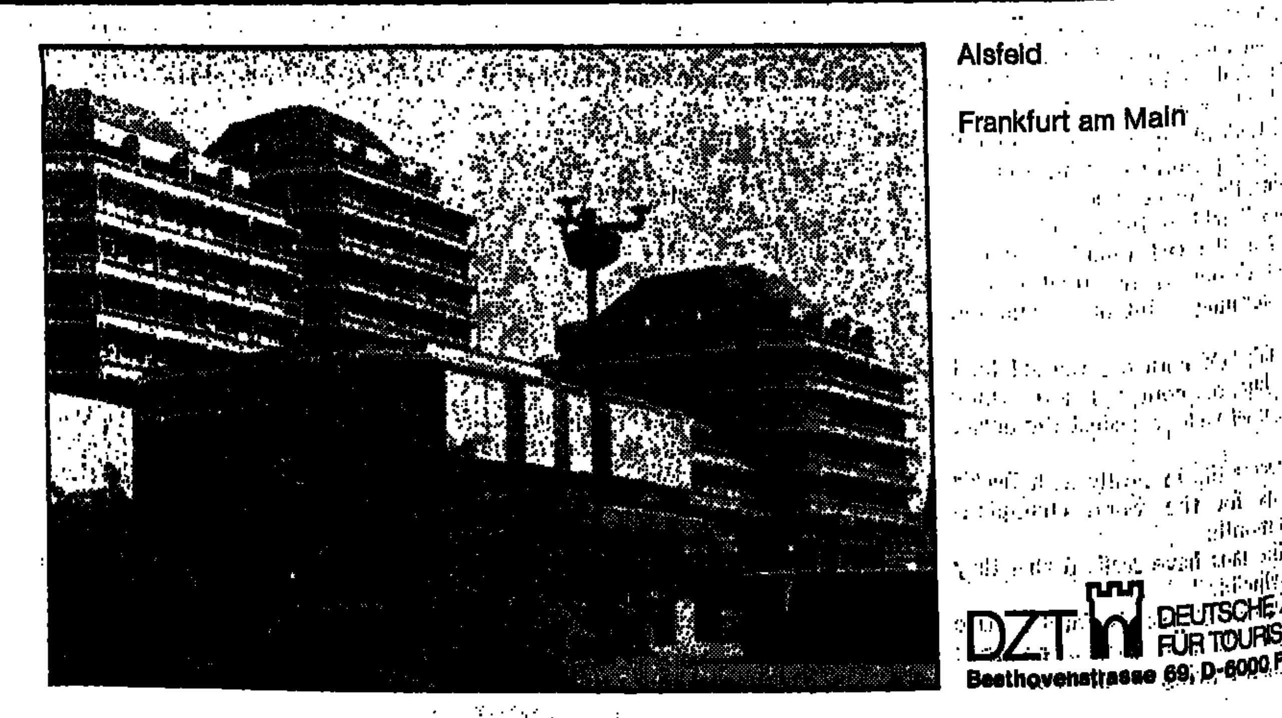




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The new link between Paris and Bonn

…onn is keen on drawing a historical comparison in thinking over relations …Paris in the wake of M. Mitter…'s victory at the Presidential polls. …emories of 1958 are recalled, when …eral de Gaulle came to power and … up the Fifth Republic, seemingly …ing Chancellor Adenauer's European …cy in ruins.

…ver night all the French Fourth Re…lic politicians together with whom … Chancellor had pursued the objec… of European economic and political …gration were bereft of influence.

…he General's policy, aimed at natio… grandeur and independence, threa…ed to seriously upset Franco-German …tions. But what actually happened … entirely different.

…De Gaulle realised that he would be …able to play the major role he envi…ed between the United States and the …viet Union unless he had Germany on … side. His influence on Bonn was to … *one of the* trumps he held in his … hand.

…de Gaulle and Adenauer signed the …co-German friendship treaty, all but …blishing a Paris-Bonn axis.

…The comparison is untended to make …ple feel more at ease. Time and again in the post-war years, the argument goes, France and Germany had hit it off again despite changing political circumstances; close cooperation would likewise continue under President Mitterrand.

Yet there can be no denying that worries exist. Times have changed again in France, and whatever policies M. Mitterrand pursues, the country will initially concentrate more on itself.

The left-wing majority that took M. Mitterrand to power is clamouring for social reforms in France that whatever happens will appeal more to the French imagination than foreign affairs.

There are, of course, optimists who even expect French foreign policy to take a turn for the better on some counts. They feel a number of Gaullist exaggerations will be scaled down under President Mitterrand.

These exaggerations in foreign policy, which has continued under Presidents Pompidou and Giscard d'Estaing, would, by being scaled down, lead to easier ties both in Nato and on European issues.

This is to overlook two points, the first being that Giscard, as far as he was able under French domestic circumstances, returned France as closely as possible to the Atlantic fold.

Cooperation between French armed forces and others integrated within Nato steadily increased. Agreements were reached with the United States on matters of France's worldwide military presence.

Besides, Giscard had signalled greater readiness to bear German defence requirements in mind. He could hardly have gone further; the situation is more likely to change for the worse.

Second, whichever way the French

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher welcomes Chancellor Helmut Schmidt to Britain for two days of consultations this month. (Photo: dpa)

Meaning of French poll theme for Thatcher-Schmidt talks

Ironically enough, Britain's Conservative Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, has gained perceptibly in importance among the EEC Ten with the election of Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist, as French President.

It goes without saying that the radical change in the interplay of forces in Europe brought about by the departure of M. Giscard d'Estaing from the political stage dominated the Chequers talks between Mrs Thatcher and Herr Schmidt.

The new man at the Elysée Palace may have weighed heavily on the meeting in terms of the uncertainty he occasioned, but Mrs Thatcher and the German Chancellor will definitely have got on much better than some months ago when ties were seriously upset by the fishery dispute.

"Anglo-German friendship continues," she apodictically announced, making light of such differences of viewpoint as might remain.

Britain has never been altogether easy about the Franco-German entente. It felt reduced by the Bonn-Paris axis to a back-seat role in the EEC.

This is likely to change if M. Mitterrand is as good as his word and pays greater attention to the smaller Common Market countries, consulting them even.

It is also likely to change if Herr Schmidt develops a predilection for playing the British card, always assuming he has not already done so.

Whitehall has at times made out Giscard to be the bogeyman of the EEC, studiously overlooking the fact that Mrs Thatcher has not always been entirely cooperative either.

By the next EEC summit, to be held in Luxembourg in June, Mrs Thatcher will at the latest make good her omission and get to know M. Mitterrand personally.

She will then notice that the new French President can be no less tough at the negotiating table than the Iron Lady herself.

In the final analysis, however, personal ties and dislikes always play second fiddle to national interests. This time British and German intentions tally.

Herr Schmidt and Mrs Thatcher agree the time has come to put paid to the arrangement whereby Bonn and Whitehall have to shoulder the lion's share of EEC financial burdens.

By the next summit a new approach is to have been drawn up to ensure that mainly agricultural Common Market countries, those that produce CAP surpluses, pay a fairer share of the Brussels bill.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 13 May 1981)

Nato ministers stand firm on defence decisions

…ato Defence Ministers have reaffirmed two decisions of crucial im…tance for the future of the alliance, … the maintenance of deterrent capaci… and for the credibility of the West.

One was the twofold decision in De…mber 1979 to modernise US medium-…ge nuclear missile capacity in Europe … to offer the Soviet Union a fresh …nd of arms control talks.

The other was the one to step up …fence spending by three per cent per …num in real terms, taken in 1977 and …78.

Under massive pressure from US Defence Secretary Weinberger, who was …le to point to the much higher in…ase in defence spending by the new …S administration, America's Nato allies … Europe agreed to reaffirm this pledge …spite economic difficulties.

Yet hardly any of them are likely to … in a position to fulfil the three-per…nt commitment in the foreseeable …ture.

Even so, the Europeans in general and



Bonn's Hans Apel in particular succeeded in gaining acceptance of a relativisation of the three-per-cent target.

Qualitative and quantitative effects of defence endeavours both past and future were to be given greater consideration, the Defence Ministers resolved.

In other words, what matters will be the real increase over a period of years. Mr Weinberger himself stressed the importance of the term "output".

This relativisation is particularly in keeping with Bonn's views on the subject. In the debate with Washington Bonn repeatedly pointed out that merely sticking to the letter of the three-per-cent pledge was not enough.

Outwardly all participants at the Nato spring summit sounded a note of complete satisfaction, but it remains to be seen whether their fine words are followed by action to back up their commitments.

Mr Weinberger certainly had good reason for satisfaction, especially when it came to the passage stressing the active assistance of all should a Nato member be required to shoulder commitments outside the Nato theatre in the interest of all.

This refers first and foremost to the Persian Gulf.

Hans-Peter Ott

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 14 May 1981)

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

French choice of Mitterrand marks a European crossroads

The unexpected is all that can be expected with any certainty in politics. Drawing up plans and long-term strategy is merely a part of politics, albeit an indispensable one.

But it can prove wishful thinking unless it bears in mind the unpredictable, which in the final analysis has always decided the course of history.

For Bonn the outcome of the Presidential elections in France is just such an unexpected event.

It has brought to an end an unusual state of affairs in Franco-German ties of which the future alone will tell the full international political significance.

It marks not only a turning-point in the history of post-war France but also a change in European and international affairs.

Chancellor Schmidt and his friend M. Giscard d'Estaing, the Presidential poll loser, had great plans in store for after the elections.

Franco-German interplay in world affairs was a major factor when it came to ensuring that future overall Western policies took into account German, French and European interests.

It was also to play a leading role in ensuring they were defended forcefully enough in dealings with the Reagan administration.

Bilateral ties between Bonn and Paris were to become even closer in the years ahead. Common views were also to extend to defence policy.

France and Germany were also prepared to jointly bear the brunt if the political will for a common approach were gradually to be eroded within Europe.

This may all still be true, but it is now subject to the proviso that circumstances have changed.

SPD leader Willy Brandt seems to have been alone in clearly expecting power to change hands in Paris. As a personal friend of M. Mitterrand's he is sure to be a linchpin for Herr Schmidt, who had not yet been able to step up his personal relationship with the new French head of state.

All told there is no real reason why the two leaders should not strike up cordial personal ties, apart that is from a number of pinpricks.

Besides, in terms of personality he and Giscard were in stark contrast to each other, whereas M. Mitterrand's characteristics would seem to indicate that he and the Chancellor have much in common.

But it will be interesting to see how they hit it off at their first meeting as leaders of their respective countries.

Doubts arise on specific issues, for instance. In bilateral ties much may be Preordained by treaty relationships, but joint policy in recent years was based to a large extent on common economic policy viewpoints.

These are now called into question by President Mitterrand's socialist programmes, and the Chancellor's first question will be how France now plans to handle economic stability and the fight against inflation.

Until an answer to these questions is given, urgent European issues on which prompt action is called for will have to be shelved.

Progress cannot, for the time being, be expected on either the political expansion of the EEC or a solution to *budgetary and Common Agricultural* Policy problems.

The European Community is condemned to inactivity until the National Assembly elections clarify France's domestic political situation.

On East-West ties M. Mitterrand will, to judge partly by a number of comments by Herr Brandt, tend to take a harder line than M. Giscard d'Estaing.

This follows to no small extent from his domestic political strategy towards M. Marchais and the French Communists.

Yet on this issue, as always in world affairs, there are factual considerations no politician, be he in Washington or in Paris, can afford to ignore.

The need to pursue an effective detente and arms control policy is a basic requirement of Western policy. So is that of ensuring adequate military strength.

M. Mitterrand's relationship with the United States will grow clearer in the course of conceptual clarification in Washington.

Bonn's role as a stabiliser in ties between European and America will certainly grow increasingly important in the near future.

This could only add to the significance of his talks with President [illegible] in Washington and with Mrs Th[illegible] at Chequers.

Anglo-German ties in Europe [illegible] assume a new role in the light of French elections, quite apart from [illegible]pean necessities and Britain's ch[illegible]ship of the Council of Ministers [illegible] second half of 1981.

France is sure to steer an indep[illegible] course under M. Mitterrand, maybe [illegible] markedly so than under M. Gisc[illegible]staing, who in recent years cautio[illegible] laxed his government's stand on [illegible] issue.

But M. Mitterrand is in such [illegible] spot between the right and left [illegible] that he is bound to pursue an in[illegible]ent course by way of self-assertio[illegible]

France's domestic future is [illegible] uncertain. What part will the Co[illegible]nists now play in French politics?

Will Gaullist leader Jacques C[illegible] hopes be fulfilled and M. Mitterr[illegible] to gain a parliamentary majority [illegible] Gaullism makes a comeback und[illegible] leadership?

Wolf I[illegible]

(General-Anzeiger, 12 Ma[illegible])

The madness of bid to kill Pope

First President Reagan, then Hesse Economics Minister Karry in Frankfurt and now the Pope! The wave of violence is no respecter of either things or persons.

Madness in this world of ours, which already went beyond rational comprehension, has now broken the bounds of anything at all conceivable.

Popes, and the present Pope in particular, feel duty bound to reestablish love among people, races, ideologies and nations.

The love John Paul II means, a love that unites and reconciles, is increasingly threatening to be debased to a mere slogan.

But the present Pope has sought and found, perhaps more so than any [illegible] predecessors, the love of people.

The masses, the public, have [illegible] their gratitude. This gratitude and [illegible] affection over and above denomin[illegible] constraints have been the result [illegible] personal emanation with the e[illegible] always on humanity.

Violence and the Pope? There c[illegible] hardly be two concepts more d[illegible]cally opposed. Hitherto there ha[illegible] no link between them.

But the shots fired in front [illegible] Peter's in the Vatican have made the [illegible] conceivable reality — a reality in w[illegible] hatred almost seems to have pre[illegible] over love.

Assassination bids may be [illegible]able, but they should serve n[illegible] ever as a reminder to us all to [illegible] to conquer violence and hatred.

This alone is the way to do jus[illegible] a Pope whose sole ambition is to [illegible] mote peace among the peoples of [illegible] world.

Helge E[illegible]

(Bremer Nachrichten, 14 Ma[illegible])

Continued from page 1

National Assembly elections go, President Mitterrand will for one be dependent on the Communists for support and for another be faced with a vigilant Gaullist Opposition.

Both Communists and Gaullists advocate French military independence, so much so that M. Marchais' Communists even endorse the French nuclear deterrent. Thus M. Mitterrand declared in his election campaign that France's *force de frappe* would not be involved not matter what disarmament talks were held.

The real uncertainty is about what form M. Mitterrand's economic policy will take. There are fears he might depart from the course of stability pursued by previous French governments, trying to create additional public service jobs with the taxpayers' money and accepting inflationary side-effects.

This could jeopardise the European Monetary System, and certainly make economic cooperation within the European Community more difficult.

German Social Democrats might then also step up pressure, with reference to France's example, for Bonn too to depart from stability policies.

These anxieties about the future course of French policy will find in Chancellor Schmidt a man who on taking over power did not attach the

New link between Paris and Bonn

importance to Franco-German ties they came to enjoy for him when he established close personal ties with President Giscard d'Estaing.

His views on European developments were, if anything, cynical.

Cooperation with France, as with other neighbouring countries in Europe, was initially more of a means of reassuring them about the consequences of a Bonn-Washington axis.

The importance of cooperation with France did not assume greater significance for Chancellor Schmidt until he began to feel worried about the unpredictable nature of US policy under President Carter.

Agreements between the governments in Paris and Bonn, which between them established almost directorate status over the rest of Europe, were intended to restore stability to world affairs, especially East-West ties and relations with major commodity producers.

This policy coordination was most clearly apparent in Germany's subordination to French policy in the Middle East. It must, however, be conceded that changes have occurred in Franco-German ties over the past five months.

Not only Washington but also Paris was upset by the domestic difficulties Chancellor Schmidt has faced since the October 1980 general election.

The growing tendency, especially among SPD left-wingers, to favour unilateral disarmament was viewed as particularly alarming.

As a result French policy began to stand more aloof from Bonn. French diplomats began to work on the new Reagan administration in Washington, arguing that France was a more reliable partner than an increasingly uncertain Germany.

Chancellor Schmidt likewise grew more cautious. Disappointed though he may have been by Britain's behaviour in the Common Market, he did not react as brusquely as he might have done.

He must evidently have realised that one day he might need Britain as a political partner.

France has now grown a more uncertain factor from the US viewpoint too. Did that mean the Chancellor stood a chance of promoting greater understanding for Germany's position during his visit to Washington?

His own party, the Social Demo[illegible] have not been making it easy for [illegible] While President Reagan, encourag[illegible] his initial successes on Capitol Hil[illegible] he was able to persuade his party-[illegible]cal opponents of the rectitude of his [illegible]licies, Chancellor Schmidt did no[illegible] of the kind.

It was doubtful whether Wash[illegible] would show understanding for his [illegible]dicament when he himself had fa[illegible] do so at a time when President C[illegible] was in a similar position.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 17 Ma[illegible])

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Predictable election result leaves Berlin position uncertain

[illegible]he outcome of the Berlin election [illegible]was predictable.

[illegible]acked by one scandal after another, [illegible]SPD/FDP coalition lost heavily; the [illegible]sition CDU rose to heights nobody [illegible]ld have dared hope for only two [illegible] ago, considering Berlin's special [illegible]stances; the Alternative ticket [illegible]tables — not exactly spoiled by [illegible] successes — managed to get into [illegible] Berlin Legislature and can now [illegible]ate their ideas and oppose the go[illegible]ment in a direct dialogue.

[illegible]ere are thus two clear winners: the [illegible], headed by Richard von Weizsäcker, and therefore now rather more libe[illegible] than before, and the Alternatives, [illegible] oppose just about everything that [illegible] been up until now considered feas[illegible] policy.

They now have the power to prevent [illegible] formation of a government that [illegible]ld rest on a more-or-less solid par[illegible]mentary foundation.

[illegible]ince nobody quite knows who to [illegible]k of the contradictory and rather [illegible]clear programme of the new party, [illegible]ch is a favourite of the young, the [illegible] democratic rule to the effect that [illegible] coalition is feasible no longer appl[illegible] Some eight per cent of the seats that [illegible]viously provided the basis for calcula[illegible]ns and educated guesses at the vari[illegible] party headquarters have suddenly [illegible]come an imponderable quantity.

This *is a bitter* pill for those who [illegible]held senatorial positions up to now [illegible] Hans-Jochen Vogel (SPD) who [illegible] to have come to his party's rescue [illegible] Berlin can neither count on a coali[illegible] nor on being tolerated by the Al[illegible]native members of the Legislature.

[illegible] He has no choice but to resign, with[illegible] knowing in whose favour.

Von Weizsäcker has no partner at the [illegible]ent (and perhaps for some time to [illegible]) who could heave him into the [illegible] post in the Senate.

The Social Democrats are out of the [illegible]sition, the Free Democrats are still [illegible] by their campaign promise not to [illegible] with the CDU.

The question now is how long will [illegible] resist the wooing by the CDU — a [illegible]tion of great uncertainty considering [illegible] party's frequent see-sawing in the past.

Victor and vanquished. Richard von Weizsäcker (right) leader of the successful West Berlin CDU accepting congratulations from the defeated SPD mayor, Hans-Jochen Vogel. (Photo: Sven Simon)

The situation is somewhat reminiscent of the desperate position of the Saar's Prime Minister Franz Roeder who was faced with a stalemate in the legislature between his CDU on the one side and the SPD and FDP with their commitment to cooperation on the other.

Herr Roeder remained in office because he refused to put matters to a vote in the legislature and because the SPD and FPD were unable to force his hand.

Once the dust had settled the liberals discovered their latent political responsibility and rushed into the CDU camp.

Today, they are reliable partners of the Saar CDU — a partnership they would like to develop into a model.

A similar situation could arise in berlin. It will take a lot of patience on von Weizsäcker's part, but eventually the Oxfort wing of the FDP, which has always been flirting with the CDU, will convince the doubters the rebellious and the uncertain.

But this will take time. The trouble is, Berlin cannot afford to muddle along for months without a Senate capable of taking action, without decisions and without a functioning legislature.

This is the crux of the electorate's decision. There is a way out, but it is impossible to tell how feasible it is. Vogel could call another election soon on the grounds that nobody can shoulder the responsibility of leaving a city ungovernable even for a short while.

But there is much that speaks against such a move. One of the consequences would be election fatigue on the part of the public and the dissatisfaction with the political parties, two of which have forfeited what they prestige they had, could take on landslide proportions.

Faced with such risks, the incumbent Senate can hardly afford to call new elections.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, a cool analyst, will keep this in mind and act accordingly.

Although he is the loser, he can console himself with the fact that he has taken the SPD out of its nadir and brought it close to the 40 per cent mark — a better result than even the optimists among the Social Democrats dared hope for.

For Richard von Weizsäcker, the outcome of the election gives rise to both triumph and disappointment.

And the liberals, who were shaking in their boots, will probably grasp at last that they have no feather to put in their cap but can blame the setbacks on their partner. And as to the Alternatives: they still have to prove themselves in the Legislature. What their colleagues in the state Legislatures have demonstrated so far is not convincing.

Once in the legislature, they could prove to be Alternatives without an alternative — and they might have rejoiced too soon.

Helmut Bauer

(Nurnberger Nachrichten, 11 May 1981)

FDP dilemma: which way to jump?

Berlin's FDP, whose share of the popular vote has shrunk to 5.6 per cent, is caught in a cleft stick and whatever it does could prove fatal.

Heavily left-oriented, the Berlin FDP is reluctant to form a coalition with the CDU for fear of losing all credibility with the electorate.

On the other hand, the liberals know that their seven legislature members, already dubbed the Seven Dwarfs, hold the key to a Berlin government.

Should CDU efforts to form a viable Senate founder on the FDPs no, a new election would become inevitable.

But this could mean the legislative demise of the FDP which would then even be blamed for having made Berlin ungovernable.

The state committee of the Free Democrats, the highest body between the party congresses, rejected a coalition with the CDU after a heated debate on 13 May.

The right wing treasurer of the Berlin FDP, Freye, resigned from the state executive committee and Erica Schmid-Petry, also a right winger, resigned as a presidium member of the state committee.

This ushered in the acid test for the Berlin FDP pending the final decision this month of a special party congress on whether or not the FDP will become an opposition party or cooperate with the CDU in one from or another.

Proponents of a marriage of convenience between FDP and CDU argue that Richard von Weizsäcker is a liberal conservative and that this would ensure that many items of the FDP programme will be adopted by the Senate.

Should the FDP decide to enter a coalition with the CDU it would in all likelihood have four years in which to prove itself and rebut charges of having betrayed those who voted for it.

After all, such charges could only be upheld if the party betrayed its programme on specific issues.

Berlin's FDP leader Jürgen Kunze, an ardent opponent of a coalition with the conservatives, would at best be prepared to tolerate a CDU minority Senate.

Kunze, who advocates continued close cooperation with the SPD, evidently wants to continue the coalition on the opposition benches.

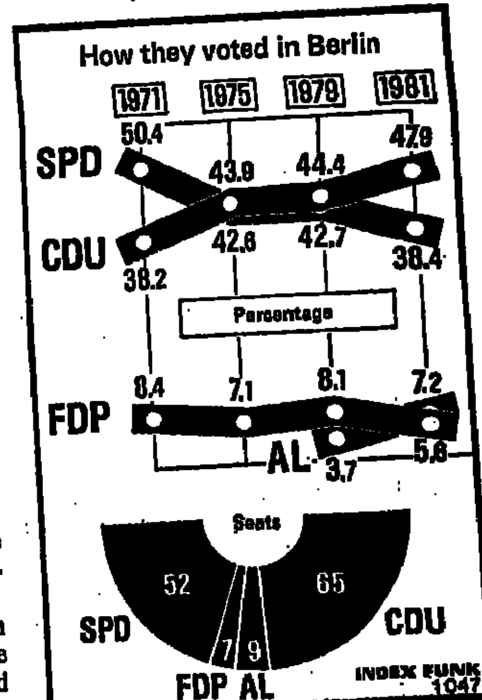
His idea can best be summed up as: we govern while a minority CDU Senate bears the responsibility.

But it is most unlikely that von Weizsäcker will form a Senate whose ability to govern would depend on a party with a mere 5.6 per cent of popular support.

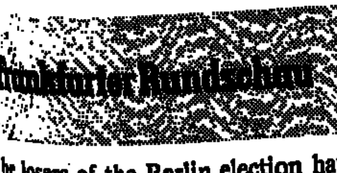
Although the CDU is only two seats short of an absolute majority, a new election would be the only feasible solution should this contingency arise.

Hans Dornbrach

(Nordwest Zeitung, 14 May 1981)



SPD begins the after-poll soul searching


[illegible]he losers of the Berlin election have [illegible] begun the post mortems.

SPD Chairman Willy Brandt hold TV [illegible]ers only hours after the polls closed [illegible] the gains of the Alternative ticket [illegible] the 1979 election corresponded [illegible]ctly to the number of votes lost by [illegible] party.

Mayor Hans-Jochen Vogel put it even [illegible] concretely when he said that the [illegible]ng people's protest as reflected in [illegible] success of the Alternatives had not [illegible] taken seriously enough.

The Alternatives cannot (as has been [illegible] by Richard von Weizsäcker) be placed outside the constitutional community life.

But in their very first statements the Alternative legislature members showed that they cannot be taken seriously as an "independent political force".

Another question is whether excessively yearning glances at the Alternative votes will not scare away other voters.

After all, the Alternatives now have one of their men on the Tiergarten Borough Council — a man whom a Berlin sentenced to several years imprisonment for his role in the kidnapping of the CDU politician Peter Lorzenz.

It would certainly be wrong to turn the Alternatives into bogeymen ... but day-today politics is a different kettle of fish.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 May 1981)

■ SECURITNOMY

/Unemployment, slump, play havoc with budget estimates

The Bonn budget handed down in December is barely worth the paper is written on and a new one will have o be drafted.

The reason: unemployment and the economic slump have played havoc with estimates.

This need not necessarily be construed as a censure of Bonn Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer, who simply used the available official data in preparing the budget. The blame rests squarely with the Social-Liberal coalition government whose fiscal concept has proved short-winded: optimistic assumptions have nothing to do with sound policy.

It is already certain that Bonn will not have to borrow only DM27.4bn (on top of old debts) in 1981 but at least DM34bn.

Unemployment is now making itself fully felt so far as the budget is concerned because the Federal Labour Office has no reserves.

Every 100,000 jobless cost DM1.8bn and, to make matters worse, they pay no taxes.

Tax revenues will be close to DM1bn lower than anticipated and higher interest rates will account for another half a billion. On top of this, previously fixed expenditures for defence, housing, road construction and motherhood assistance have been underestimated.

Bonn, the *Länder* and the municipalities will have to borrow DM70bn this year — *not easy to finance.*

Moreover, the years to come are already encumbered. By today's rates, annual interest payments amount to DM7bn. The money will have to be raised by the taxpayer and the loans will come from people at home and abroad who have enough money to lend.

The amounts involved are so enormous as to make it impossible for Bonn and the *Länder* to save the money by economising.

Any attempt to do so would mean that important investements would have to be dropped, among them construction, purchases and other types of orders to business.

In the end, some of these amounts would have to be paid nevertheless because senior civil servants have a tendency to economise on projects which are a must, such as fuel for the Bundeswehr.

No matter how you look at it, we have missed the boat for any genuine economy measures in 1981. The coalition has simply wasted a year.

Legislation aimed at reducing subsidies, which has just been passed by the Bundestag, is not enough to restore the state's scope of action in reducing unemployment and making provision for the future.

And the half-hearted mini steps taken by politicians on social groups such as the trade unions, employers, civil servants, farmers and subsidy recipients, do not give the impression that the state means business.

Interior Minister Baum will feel the brunt of it in the current pay negotiations for public sector workers.

But the 1982 budget could provide the opportunity for a new beginning — a beginning that would have to be made now.

We must not again permit a budget based on wishful thinking and on an economic upswing with the attendant tax revenues and the risk of such optimism backfiring and our having to borrow still more.

Instead, we must reduce any new borrowing. At the same time we must provide incentives to produce more and better goods more cheaply to enable us to increase exports and save energy without imposing further burdens on the environment.

There are essentially two possible ways of economising: we could introduce legislation that would impose cutbacks in all areas. Such a solution would probably be fairly easy to implement but it would be unjust and would not serve the purpose.

It would be better to reduce government benefits to a sensible level. This applies to agriculture subsidies, the civil service, student allowances for those from well-to-do families, unemployment benefits for moonlighters or allegedly unemployed spouses. The enumeration could be continued indifinitely.

We can no longer afford to measure the quality of our social security net by its cost. Up to now, we acted on the

No end to government debt
Annual deficit (federal, state, municipal plus social security system)
In DMbn
1974 14 · 1975 59 · 1976 40 · 1977 29 · 1978 36 · 1979 41 · 1980 52

principle that it is better to gi[ve] much to ten citizens than too li[ttle to] one.

The state and its bureaucracy [have] undertaken to distribute assets in [order] to create justice for all.

But, as demonstrated by the L[abour] Office and its placement service [for the] unemployed, this bureaucracy is [in]capable to fulfil even its most urgent func[tions].

The Social-Liberal coalition sho[uld be] in a good position to come up [with] sound solutions. The FDP has a [keen] eye for social security spending a[nd the] SPD is equally keen where privilege[s of] the haves are concerned.

These abilities should at last be c[om]bined for the common good inste[ad of] the parties blocking each other o[ut of] consideration for the various gro[ups of] voters.

Wolfgang Mauen...

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 Ma[y 1981])

The missing DM10bn

It is pure coincidence that Bonn's budget deficit is equal to the amount of money lost by tax evasion — DM10bn.

But it would be premature to conclude from the proposals of the chairman of the Organisation of Internal Revenue Officials, Werner Hagedorn, that this is where the key to the solution of our fiscal problems lies.

It would be so easy to conclude that all we need to do is to rescind road tax and use the 4,000 Revenue officials who would thus become redundant as Revenue Department auditors to step up hitherto lax controls which would make the taxmen's cash registers ring again.

Unfortunately, such an assumption is based on a fallacy and was not suggested by Herr Hagedorn in the first place.

What his organisation wants is essentially to do away with inefficiency in the Revenue Department's personnel handling which costs the state a great deal of money.

Thus the patent solution to our fiscal woes is not yet in sight.

(General-Anzeiger, 7 May 1981)

Bundesbank to continue with money supply policy

The Bundesbank is to continue its money supply policy to curb inflation. This means that the growth in money supply is limited to 5.5 per cent a year.

The bank's 1980 report, which has now been issued, says the deutschemark is not yet fully stabilised.

However, the use of monetary instruments since February this year did manage to stabilise the deutschemark exchange rate in March.

According to the report, there is no way of getting away from the fact that, due to the steep increase of oil prices, West Germany's affluence will diminish and that this effect cannot be halted by risin nominal incomes.

"Unless we take into cccount that there is no scope for income increases in real terms today, our overall economic problems will become aggravated still fruther."

The return to more monetary stability and employment would thus be delayed still further.

The central bank stresses that the value of Germany's net energy imports in 1980 (amounting to DM64bn) were double those of 1978.

These imports accounted for about 4.5 per cent of GNP as against 2.5 per cent two years earlier.

This means that an additional two per cent of domestic production must go into the settlement of the oil bill because, in the long term, we shall have no option but to pay for energy imports with goods and services.

The Bundesbank is emphatic in its demand that the adaptation process of German industry be buttressed by a suitable financial policy.

Such assistance should primarily consist in a reduction of the state's use of the GNP which had increased considerably.

The central bank thinks little of more



government spending — especially in view of the further increase in the public sector deficit by about DM10bn.

There is a danger that the necessary adaptation processes will be delayed particularly with economic boster programmes.

The Bundesbank holds that it is a poor solution to borrow abroad the money for such programmes. It argues that the greater our foreign debt the less GNP remains to be distributed at home because debt servicing must ultimately (like any other import) be paid from our own GNP.

It is also concerned about the advance of imported finished products on our domestic market.

These are not only so-called low-technology products and consumer goods but also a high proportion of capital goods where imports rose by three to four per cent between 1976 and 1980.

German competitiveness must improve if the balance of payments position is to get better.

In the nick of time to help replenish, if only in part, Bonn's empty coffers, the Bundesbank again came up with a net profit for 1980.

After a five-year break, the central bank's surplus amounted to DM8.8bn of which DM2.27bn will flow into federal coffers.

The last transfer (DM400m) was made in 1975.

The positive business results of [the] Bundesbank in 1980 were primarily [due] to globally high interest rates and to [a] relatively weak deutschemark.

In previous years the depreciation [of] foreign currencies led to consider[able] write-offs on Germany's foreign [ex]change reserves but the recent appr[ecia]tion of foreign currencies last year [re]sulted in a gain of DM1.7bn.

The US dollar which has involved [the] greatest write-off, now generated [a] change in the Bundesbank bal[ance] sheet.

Due to the improved dollar exch[ange] rate, the dollar reserves were again (a[s in] 1980) valued at DM1.7275 per dollar.

Unlike most commercial banks, [the] Bundesbank profited from the [...] rising interest rates.

Interest revenues were DM9.3[...] DM1.55bn higher than in 1979. [The] domestic gain rose from DM1.8bn [to] DM3.4bn.

Interest revenues for investm[ents] abroad dropped slightly by DM311m [to] DM5.8bn, although foreign deposit[s di]minished by 20 per cent.

It was above all the dramatically [in]creased dollar interest rates that [...] compensating effect here.

Of the total DM8.8bn surplus, a [con]siderable amount will go into offse[tting] 1979 losses, leaving a net profi[t of] DM3.08bn.

After putting DM805m into a re[serve] account, Finance Minister Hans M[atthö]fer can now look forward to pocke[ting] the remaining DM2,27bn.

(General-Anzeiger, 5 May [1981])

OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT

Bonn doing the right thing, evidence before aid committee reveals

[Ev]idence from 10 organisations re[v]ealed no major objections to the [condu]ct of Bonn's development policy [durin]g the final session of the Bundes[tag C]ommittee on Development Aid.

[Th]e aim of the hearing, according to [Cha]irman, Uwe Holtz (SPD) was to [revie]w Germany's development policy [for th]e 1980s.

[Ho]wever, there was criticism that the [comm]ittee had talked the whole day of [the] final round without touching on [the] main North-South problem: the [pop]ulation explosion," according to an [CDU] MP.

[A]nd the FDP's Helga Schuchardt cri[ticise]d the Catholic Church for oppos[ing] "effective" birth control pro[gra]mmes.

[B]ut development organisations rang[ing] from the Bensheim Circle to the [Wor]k Group for Learning and Helping [Over]seas, the Churches themselves and [Com]mittee Chairman Uwe Holtz (SPD) [did]n't see birth control as a key problem [bu]t as a consquence of other shortcom[ing]s.

[S]aid Holtz: "Economic and social de[vel]opment is still the best pill."

Thus it seems clear that the Commit[tee] members need not blame themselves [for] having evaded one of the crucial [iss]ues of any development policy.

The aim of the hearing was to review [Ge]rmany's development policy of the [80]s, as Holtz put it.

[Th]e Committee has succeeded in [doin]g exactly this although the opposi[tion] found that the whole thing was [som]ewhat too harmonious. It would [hav]e preferred a somewhat more critical [att]itude towards past mistakes.

But ever since Jürgen Todenhöfer [cea]sed being the opposition spokesman [on] development affairs the atmosphere [ha]s become noticeably more relaxed. [An]d the contention put forward by [th]e experts that North-South issues [sho]uld not be used for image-building [and] party politics is likely to help conso[lida]te this harmony.

Ten organisations were heard in the [cour]se of the hearing and none of them [cam]e up with any major objections to [the] conduct of Bonn's development [poli]cy.

Holtz's summary thus simply reflected [thi]s — though perhaps somewhat gar[nish]ed with partisan praise.

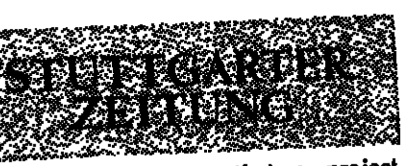
There were some stirrings of unrest [whe]n many of the extraparliamentary [par]ticipants in the meeting, among them [th]e representatives of the business-[ori]ented Work Group for Developing [Co]untries, said that "we share Bonn's at[titu]de towards development aid" and ex[trav]agantly praised the Brandt Report.

But quite apart from the realisation [tha]t German development policy is in [fai]rly good shape, both experts and po[liti]cians pointed to a number of weak [spo]ts — not so much as far as the con[cep]t is concerned but regarding practical [im]plementation.

Most eloquent here was the complaint [of] the Bensheim Circle and the organi[sa]tions belonging to it.

They deplored the lack of understand[in]g on the part of government agencies [fo]r modest projects costing less than a [m]illion.

"We find it difficult to explain to the



Development Ministry that a project with a price tag of between DM20,000 and DM100,000 can also be important."

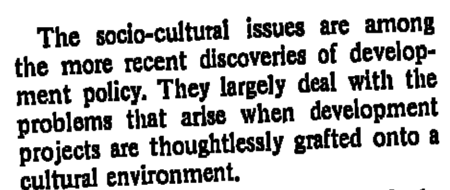
Though all the examples listed came from the borderline between development aid and humanitarian assistance (the latter falls under the jurisdiction of the Foreign Ministry) all participants agreed that not enough attention is being paid to such small projects — especially by a development aid concept that is aimed at reaching the magic 0.7 per cent of GNP target.

In any event, Holtz said that he intended to take such "grassroots projects" more seriously.

There are two concepts that are gaining in general acceptance: the basic needs concept and the socio-cultural aspects of development policy.

There was no dissenting voice regarding the need to concentrate on satisfying basic needs. The only thing where the experts differed was on the range of items that constitute basic needs.

It transpired that it was not enough to put all emphasis on the adequate production of foodstuffs. Instead, it is necessary to provide the conditions that will make it possible to take this food to the people. And this can only be done by means of roads and the necessary rolling stock.



The socio-cultural issues are among the more recent discoveries of development policy. They largely deal with the problems that arise when development projects are thoughtlessly grafted onto a cultural environment.

Professor Dieter Obernhöfer of the Advisory Council of the Bonn Development Aid Ministry said that we should do away with the widespread misconception that technical experts should be put in charge of everything.

Hildegard Hamm-Brücher of the Foreign Ministry had sounded a similar note several weeks earlier and was no doubt delighted that many of the experts at the hearing supported her view and shed more light on the dark side of development aid.

With all the thought that was given to possibilities of improving the quality of development aid, there was a clear undercurrent to the effect that there can be no lasting success unless the Third World partners cooperate.

Among the obstacles mentioned were not only the (imported) bureaucracies of the developing countries but also their frequent shortcomings regarding human rights and their refusal in many cases to permit free trade unions.

The representative of the Trade Union Federation deplored the tendency of German business to set up in these countries.

Stèn Martenson

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 8 May 1981)

Industrialists call for more cooperation

The National Federation of German Industry (BDI) wants for more cooperation between industrial and developing countries.

It explains in a paper ideas on the further development of global economic relations between industrial and developing countries.

German industry considers that the continued under-development and poverty in many parts of the Third World and far-reaching changes in global economic conditions require better use of the cooperation scope between North and South available to private business.

According to the BDI, such possibilities only exist in a world economy that is directed at producing profits rather than a redistribution of assets and that relies more on market forces than on supranational planning.

To achieve this aim, the BDI suggests that the developing countries be integrated in a promising global growth policy.

But, based on past experience, this cannot be achieved with planned economy concepts. As a result, Western industrial countries must pursue a common market-oriented policy.

The BDI says that — on the threshold of the third development decade — complex economic conditions make it impossible to come up with easy and swiftly realisable solutions.

Development policy concepts, the industrialists say, must be governed by market principles and sustained cooperation.

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 6 May 1981)

German cattle exports help agricultural growth

The 77 bovine passengers aboard the jet of the Lufthansa subsidiary German Cargo mooed contentedly as the aircraft took off.

This was not ordinary cattle, but breeding animals with the finest of pedigrees — which accounts for the fact that they jetted in style to their new pastures.

Animals like these 77 passengers in 13 special spacious containers have become one of the German export successes.

The Munich import and export company that specialises in fine cattle for breeding purposes has shipped more than 3,500 head — mostly to Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Kuwait and India.

The buyer countries are in the process of developing their agriculture to become independent of imported dairy products.

German cattle are particularly coveted because of the care with which they are bred, their high milk yield and their exceptional sturdiness.

As a result, there is a great deal of demand for German "miracle cows" and exporters now find it hard to meet demand.

Jets carrying cattle now take off daily (and frequently twice a day) from Cologne and Frankfurt to transport their mooing passengers to their destinations.

The cattle flights are accompanied by an experienced attendant who also supervises loading and unloading.

At the other end the animals are trans-shipped on to lorries and taken to government farms.

Although this cargo might not smell as good as the carnations that are regularly flown into Germany by German Cargo, the cattle flights are at least as profitable.

There is nothing the Lufthansa subsidiary does not transport, be it textiles from Hong Kong, machinery parts to Vietnam, consumer goods for Germans working in Nigeria, fish from Senegal to Athens.

Though German Cargo is not the largest of the nine European air freight companies, it has always operated in the black, which is no mean feat considering today's fuel prices. And the bovine passengers have greatly contributed to this success.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 7 May 1981)

Special stalls for cattle being loaded on to a German Cargo aircraft. (Photo: Leicher)

TECHNOLOGY

Optical fibres lead the way in new telecommunications revolution

Optical cables are the keynote of a new era in telecommunications engineering inaugurated by Bonn Post and Telecommunications Minister Kurt Gscheidle.

He gave the go-ahead for full-scale development of fibre-glass telephone lines a month after the Bonn Cabinet had endorsed a package of measures designed to foster growth.

Optical cables as part of a scheme called Bigfon are indeed the key feature of the entire Bonn government package.

Telecom engineers and technicians are jubilant about the possibilities of *Bigfon*, short for *breitbandiges integriertes Glasfaser-Fernmeldeortsnetz*, or Wide-Band Integrated Fibre-Glass Local Exchange Telephone Network.

Optical cables have already made great headway at the Bundespost's research division in Darmstadt and in experimental field trials.

Since autumn 1977 optical cables have handled calls between two exchanges in Frankfurt and West Berlin. Since summer 1979 they have also been put through their paces as a link between the exchange and selected telephone subscribers.

By mid-1981 about 350 subscribers should be phoning via light waves in West Berlin alone.

Laboratory and field trials have proved so successful, that Herr Gscheidle has been able to commission a prototype all-optical fibre local exchange far sooner than was expected a few years ago.

Bigfon is by no means an exaggeration of the potential of optical cables, if results so far are any guide.

The new technology, which converts electrical impulses into light signals, channels them along optical cables and reconverts them into electrical impulses, sound, vision and various data, is a truly revolutionary concept.

It is a far cry from conventional cables using copper wire and even relegates to a minor role the coaxial cable over which such media policy controversy has raged in recent years.

Copper-wired coaxial cable may be a great improvement on conventional two-way cable but its potential is a mere fraction of the workload optical cables can handle.


Bonn Post and Telecommunications Minister Kurt Gscheidle sharing a joke at the Bundespost's Darmstadt research division. He was there to inaugurate optical cable trials including videophone experiments. (Photo: dpa)

So it is felt to be as good as certain that optical cables will be progressively introduced once and for all from 1986. Each and every option so far debated is within their reach.

The Bonn government and the Bundespost may still grimly argue that optical cables are intended mainly to improve individual telecommunications, but much more is at stake.

Optical cables open up the unquestionable prospect of supermarket communications access to private homes against which the Social Democrats in particular are currently fighting tooth and nail.

But Radio Luxembourg threatens to bombard Germany with satellite TV and manufacturers are increasingly clamouring for the investment blockade to be lifted.

Besides, Germany will otherwise risk trailing the field in international telecommunications. So Bonn has decided to give the go-ahead for full-scale trials despite the unanswered media policy issues.

The Bundespost now has a free hand to go ahead with full-scale development in close collaboration with manufacturers.

Planners at Herr Gscheidle's Ministry are firmly convinced that wide-band telecom systems based on optical cables will by 1985 be available at prices competitive with those for conventional systems. This presupposes mass production, however, and it will only make sense on the assumption that the Post Office re-equips its entire network in the decades ahead.

Local exchange facilities, especially cable links with individual subscribers, will need gradually to be converted to optical.

The *Bigfon* potential is striking. Take, for instance, the videophone. Telephone subscribers will be able to plug in their phones to the colour TV sets in their living rooms and see the person at the other end of the line on the TV screen.

The only additional device of any consequence that this facility will require would be a small colour TV camera to take the picture to be relayed. By the end of the decade, if not earlier, this kind of camera will cost only a few hundred deutschemarks or so.

So you think this is mere wishful thinking? Imagine how much could be saved in air fares by holding videophone conferences via telecom links between one country and another!

Optical cables will also make the TV set a universal data terminal. By the end of the century we will be dealing with the bank, the supermarket and the inland revenue by TV.

What is more, we will be doing so as matter-of-factly as the way in which companies already exchange information via video terminals.

Once optical cables come into their own, politicians currently engaged in fighting a rearguard action against cable TV, viewdata and the like will find themselves way behind the times.

Gerhard Hennemann

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 May 1981)

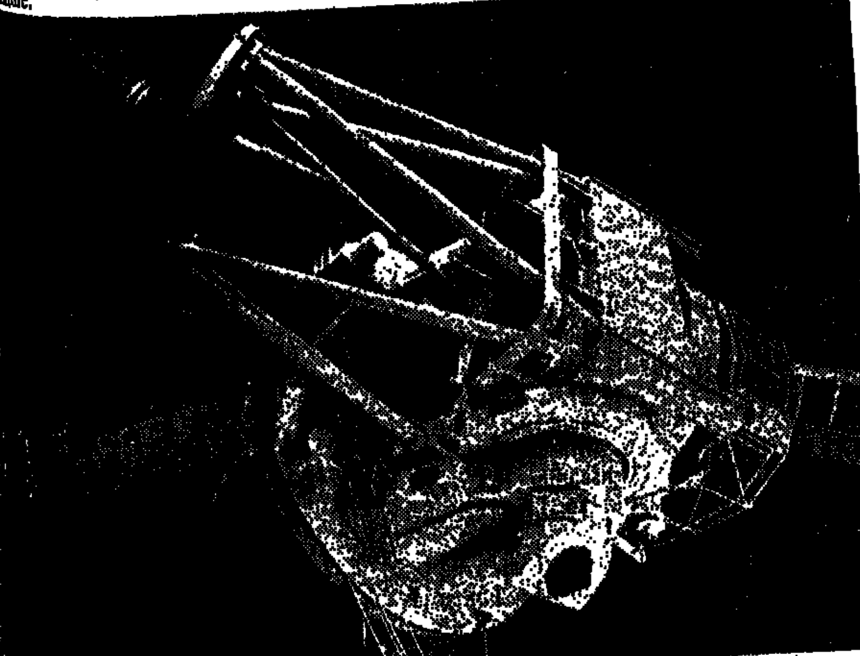
Munich centre handles data from Euro observatory

The new headquarters of the European Southern Observatory, which has been opened in Munich, has the world's most up-to-date astronomical computer installation.

Its function is to analyse data compiled by ESO research scientists at the observatory's observation post in Chile.

Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss said at the inauguration ceremony that the new facility was a landmark.

For the industrialised countries it was an indispensable prerequisite for intensive basic research. "We must keep up with technological progress," he said.


One of the telescopes of the European Southern Observatory based in Chile. It is entirely computer controlled. (Photo: ESO)

The story began 20 years ago when six European countries, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, decided to join forces in astronomical research into the southern hemisphere.

Italy and Switzerland are to join the original six this year. Sites for the southern observatory were proposed in South Africa and Chile.

EEC astronomers opted for the South American location, a site atop La Silla, 2,400 metres, a mountain 600km north of Santiago de Chile, because it was ideally suited for astronomical observation.

La Silla has desert air, which is dry and clear. Rain or snow are most infrequent. The night sky is cloudless 300 days a year.

A dozen telescopes have been installed on top of the bare mountain, but the device on which ESO boffins particularly pride themselves is a computer-controlled 3.6-metre telescope weighing 250 tonnes and costing DM70m.

It is so sensitive it could pick up a candlelight a million kilometres away. Scientists are so keen to use it that a jury has had to draw up a timetable, and astronomers are only allowed to use it for three or four nights at a time.

It is an expensive privilege too. A night's star-gazing costs DM60,000!

Data compiled by ESO research scientists is relayed to Munich for evaluation. The first detailed astronomical atlas of the southern sky is there being assembled on a total 1,212 photographic plates.

Each plate can be magnified to reveal up to one million stars recorded during an average exposure time of two hours. The atlas comes in 24 boxes and costs DM22,000.

The Munich HQ, costing DM70m, was donated to ESO by Germany.

Its image processing system converts the constellations into spectral images, registers heavenly bodies and light ratings, prints out automatic charts and produces colour images of nebulas and galaxies.

By virtue of incorporating this image evaluation unit the Munich complex will also house the European coordination centre for the European Space Agency's space telescope.

State secretary Erwin Stahl of the Bonn Research Ministry alone sounded a sobering note at the inauguration ceremony.

This was an unwelcome reminder that this year's budget is DM32.5m, exactly the same as in 1976. Adjusted for inflation this in effect means a 19-per-cent spending cut.

Peter Schmalz

(Die Welt, 6 May 1981)

■ THE ARTS

Huchel, down-to-earth poet, dies at 78

Poet Peter Huchel, who has died aged 78 in Staufen, near Freiburg, spent much of his carreer in what German literary historians have come to call inner emigration.

The hallmark of this phenomenon was, in his case, the decision to make a fresh start in the West in 1971 after decades spent out on a limb in the GDR.

He was born in Berlin and grew up in Brandenburg, the province surrounding the city, but spent some time in France after his student days.

His first poems were published in the magazine *Literarische Welt* in the early 20s but he ceased publication for some time during the Third Reich.

After the war he settled in the Soviet Zone, working as a publisher's reader and as a programme director in broadcasting.

In 1948 he became editor of *Sinn und Form*, a magazine that largely bore his imprint and was held in high repute.

But he was forced to tender his resignation in 1962 and in 1963, after failing to refuse the Theodor Fontane Prize awarded by West Berlin, life became even more difficult.

He no longer received letters. Even printed papers were impounded. His personal archives were confiscated. In 1971 he was finally permitted to leave the GDR.

Having felt closely linked with nature and farm life in his native Brandeburg from his early days, he found starting from scratch again in the West at his age no easy task.

His books of poems include *Die Sternenreuse*, *Chausseen, Chausseen* and *Gezählte Tage*. He made a name for himself both inside Germany and abroad.

He was awarded the North Rhine-Westphalian grand prix d'art in 1968, the Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung's Johann Heinrich Merck Prize for literary criticism in 1971 and the Austrian State Prize for literature in 1972.

Then came the literary award of German Freemasons in 1974, the Andreas Gryphius Prize and the art award of the Bundesverband der deutschen Industrie that same year, and the Reinhold Schneider arts award of the city of Freiburg in 1980.

As a poet Huchel had close ties with nature and farm life but he was by no means romantic in outlook. His verse is verifiable, down to earth.

It deals with the simple life and although at times it is melancholic and even gloomy it is not lacking in Mediterranean brightness and serenity either.

Four years ago in Brussels, on being awarded the first Europalia literary prize, he expressed surprise about his great popularity.

In that interview he was emphatically in favour of a dialogue between writers in East and West.

Chancellor Schmidt wrote to Huchel on his 75th birthday that he had shown that poetry had more than a great past in Germany.

In a greetings telegram Walter Scheel, Bonn head of state, said Huchel had been called the covert doyen of German poetry as early as the 50s and been regarded as a poet of the entire German people.

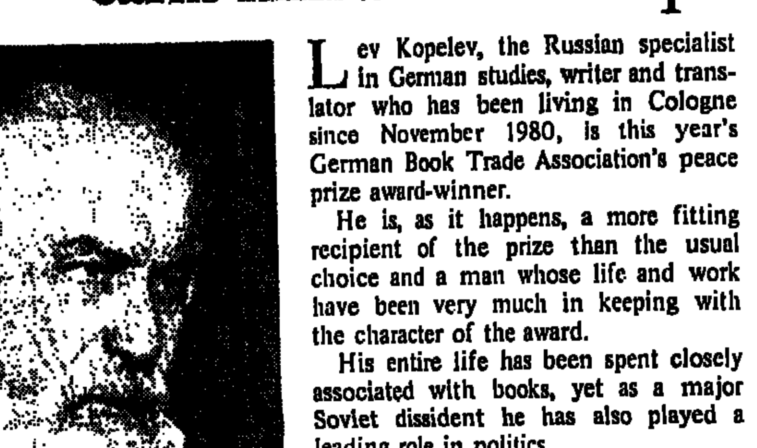
Alexander Bauer

(Nordwest Zeitung, 8 May 1981)



Peter Huchel (Photo: Brigitte […])

Russian exile Kopelev's refusal to preach hatred earns him book trade peace prize



Lev Kopelev . . . thorn in Soviet leaders' flesh, but he is not embittered. (Photo: dpa)

Lev Kopelev, the Russian specialist in German studies, writer and translator who has been living in Cologne since November 1980, is this year's German Book Trade Association's peace prize award-winner.

He is, as it happens, a more fitting recipient of the prize than the usual choice and a man whose life and work have been very much in keeping with the character of the award.

His entire life has been spent closely associated with books, yet as a major Soviet dissident he has also played a leading role in politics.

Above all, he has proved a tireless servant of the cause of peace and of Soviet-German understanding, so much so as to be a thorn in the Soviet leaders' flesh on this score alone.

He has been stripped of Soviet citizenship and he and his wife are shortly to be granted German nationality. Yet even in the West he has taken care not to preach hatred.

Despite several years in a labour […] Kopelev, 68, is not embittered abo[…] native country, unlike Solzhenitsyn.

This is all the more surprising […] of the fact that his skirmishes with […] cials and politicians began towards […] end of the war.

As a young officer he prot[…] against excesses by Red Army troops […] East Prussia, details of which he has […] scribed in the first volume of his […] biography.

His objective, even in writings c[…] lated illegally in the Soviet Union, […] always been to foster peace and in […] ticular to prevent a fresh war be[…] Germans and Russians.

He wrote a PhD thesis on Sc[…] 1941 and in the Soviet Union help[…] popularise both Heinrich Böll, Wolfg[…] Koeppen and GDR writers.

In the award citation he is lauded […] his unshakable ethical fortitude, […] rightly so.

Rainer Hartm[…]

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 May […])

Coming to philosophical terms with modern technology

"Out of the ivory tower" is the war cry of the philosophy of technology, the latest and most promising discipline of contemporary thought.

Leading philosophers of technology from Germany and America have just met for the first time in a joint bid to come to philosophical terms with the alarming trends in modern technology.

Two women and 20 men spent a week in the cloistered seclusion of the Werner Reimers Foundation in Bad Homburg.

Is technology a boon or a bane for mankind? The answer seems already clear. There can be no mistaking the destruction of the environment and there is no alternative to a return to nature.

But is this not merely a romantic excuse? Is it possible to forgo the technology to which one has grown accustomed?

The philosophers of technology, for the most part qualified scientists, refused to take a simple view. They had learnt from Heidegger that the problem of technology was fundamental and epoch-making.

Only a radical change in outlook towards nature and mankind could lay the groundwork for effectively getting technology under control.

Klaus Meyer-Abich, philosopher and head of A.U.G.E., an Essen interdisciplinary working party, called for a gentle technology that would give expression to nature.

A new culture that was not purely Western in orientation would function as a social and philosophical filter, Henriyk Skolimowski of Michigan added.

The only technologies that could then gain acceptance, he said, would be those that were good for mankind and undemanding of nature.

The economic Philistine who knew the price of everything and the value of nothing would first have to appreciate the cost of water, air and happiness.

Kristin Schrader-Frechette of Kentucky temperamentally dealt with her experience of government commissions.

Technology could be evaluated, said Berlin philosopher Friedrich Rapp, but he warned against placing exaggerated expectations in technology evaluation.

Real requirements and the right lifestyle were subjects on which it was extremely difficult to give a firm answer. Forecasts were so uncertain and the current system of values so varied that a common denomintor could hardly be found.

The change in values that could be observed, said Walter Ch. Zimmerli of Brunswick, retained a residual ethics that might just serve as a bridge between the various norms.

Visions of the future should then be drawn up that were politically acceptable, said Don Ihde of New York. But this must on no account be undertaken in the manner of social engineers.

Hans Lenk, the well-known Karlsruhe philosopher, reckoned mankind would have to come to terms with much greater responsibility.

This responsibility would extend to the ecological system, with a need for ethics as a watchdog discipline in every profession and related to the special problems of each.

Alois Huning of Düsseldorf then felt it would be appropriate to take human rights as a yardstick of technological development.

Technology today is a political activity as Langdon Winner of the MIT showed. The choice of instruments literally […] cided the shape of society, from […] mobiles to literature.

So control over technology shoul[d …] no account be left to the tender m[…] of governments.

Mere specialists are unsuitable fo[r …] task too, as Edmund Byrne of In[…] rightly pointed out. They only b[…] their way around a discipline tha[t …] just been overtaken by developmen[ts …]

Robert Cohen of Boston cit[…] noted that in a mass society respe[ct …] nature as called for Albert Schw[eitzer …] could hardly be expected.

Small-scale economics, as called […] many, and gentle technology ha[…] not proved their worth in China.

It must also be borne in mind […] mankind has a justified fear of […] Nature, to judge, for instance, […] own behaviour, can be extrem[…] ible.

Joseph Weizenbaum of the […] world-famous computer speci[alist …] man who has grown wiser with […] that mistakes were the basic […] human behaviour.

Serious errors were made as a […] technology, but the increasing […] tion of the world was forcing […]

Continued on page 12

THE CINEMA

A rebel at Cannes

[Th]omas Brasch's first effort as a film [dir]ector, *Engel aus Eisen*, is to be the […] German entry for this year's […] Film Festival.

[Th]e choice of Brasch's film no doubt […] disappointed many German […]makers who did not send their […] to the Berlin Festival in the hope [of be]ing selected for Calles.

[Bras]ch's versatility is best demon[strated] by the fact that his translation of [Chekh]ov's *Cherry Garden* is being pre[sent]ed at Bochum this month. Two of [his] works, *Lieber Georg* and *Vor den [Vät]ern sterben die Söhne*, are being [film]ed and are due to be released short[ly]. And in the autumn a children's book, [*Der*] *König vor dem Fotoapparat*, will be [pub]lished.

This Brasch boom must be seen [aga]inst his East German background. [Th]e East German bureaucracy of loyalist […]men made life tough from the start [for] this critical author and film fanatic.

In 1965, Brasch was expelled from [univ]ersity for "insulting leading East [Ger]man personalities" and "existential[ism]." A Vietnam programme which he [dir]ected was banned.

When Brasch distributed leaflets pro[tes]ting against the Soviet invasion of [Cz]echoslovakia, he was sentenced to 27 [mo]nths imprisonment for "subversion".

Four of his screenplays were rejected [on] political grounds.

Instant success. A scene from 'Engel aus Eisen'. (Photo: Concorde-Film)

In 1976, the irrepressible rebel was deported. He was granted "the right to leave the country for the purpose of taking up residence outside the GDR."

Engel aus Eisen is Brasch's first feature film. The background is the blockade of Berlin. When, a few years after the Second World War, the world powers start the cold war, a gang of Berlin crooks take the opportunity this moment of international chaos presents.

The Gladow gang attacked, murdered and robbed.

When they were caught in April 1949, it turned out that gang-leader Gladow had been working together with Berlin's last executioner, Gustav Völpel. Gladow was executed in 1950. Völpel died in 1959, two years after his release from prison.

Thomas Brasch does not take the historical facts about the gang as the basis for his film. The planning and execution of raids are dealt with only incidentally.

He is not interested in the excitement of the thriller. On the other hand, he does not go deeply enough into psychological aspects. Gladow is presented as a victim of the post-war years, but Brasch does not explain the energy and drive with which he takes his chance.

The portrayal of Völpel is subtler. Völpel refused to take part in the war but when it was over he executed war criminals for the Americans and the Russians. He comes across as a lost, déclassé samurai, whom contemporary events have reduced to a mere pen pusher.

Völpel sees escape as his only salvation. Unlike Gladow, who acts impulsively, Völpel plans his actions, but even so he makes a false move . . .

Brasch's film is based on the opposition between Gladow and Völpel but the viewer finds it difficult to cope with this. True, author-director Brasch has given us all the information we need about their personalities and background but they both still remain strangely pale.

They seem to move past in the distance, their little victories in the deafening roar of world history leave us indifferent and their tragedy is like news from another land which we cannot follow or fully appreciate.

The fault certainly does not lie with the script. Nor with the actors: Hilmar Thate as Völpel, Ullrich Wesselmann as Gladow and Katharina Thalbach as the gangster's moll act their parts impressively.

The indifference which *Engel aus Eisen* imbues in the reader is probable due to hesitancies in the directing. Brasch has produced fascinating images which capture superbly the atmosphere of post-war Berlin. He recreates the *Lebensgefühl* of the forties vividly, but he finds it difficult to make us identify with Völpel, Gladow and Lisa.

Nor does he focus long enough on critical aspects. The key first half hour is drowned in the nerve-wracking background noises. Brasch is attempting to describe chaos — and the fact that his decription is itself chaotic does not help.

Engel aus Eisen is a typical debut film. Nonetheless, it could be the beginning of Brasch's film making career. Brasch has undoubtedly shown that he can master film technique and write a visually appealing script.

Perhaps in his second film he will succees in using camera and props not just as ends in themselves but as specific means towards the achievement of his literary ideas.

Eckhart Schmidt

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 1 May 1981)

■ MEDICINE

Not only medical reasons for mending children's tooth irregularities

There are both psychological and medical reasons why irregularities in children's teeth should be corrected.

The trouble is that it is costly. It also demands a lot of discipline by the child and constant supervision by parents.

On these factors hinge much of the responsibility for success — or failure. Another is cost.

Work involving orthodontics (that is the branch of surgery which deals with tooth irregularities and their correction) usually takes two or three years.

One of the ironies is that a higher proportion of treatments is now discontinued since the health insurance schemes took over full payment in 1973.

Before then the rate of discontinuation was between 3 and 5 per cent. Since then the rate has risen dramatically to 15 per cent.

An estimated 25 per cent of all children urgently need orthodontic work. But it would be better if, in view of the uncertain borderline between small cosmetic blemishes and a genuine need, the decision to treat or not to treat were made on the basis of functional urgency.

There are essentially two types of defects that call for orthodontic work. The most frequent (90 per cent) are crooked or too closely spaced teeth — something any lay person can recognise at first glance. As a result, parents need no special prompting to see a dentist when such a condition exists.

The reasons for this type of deformation are still somewhat unclear. It appears that our civilisation is at least partly to blame.

Dentists assume that our ever softer food provides less and less work for the teeth, thus leading to inadequate development. But genetic factors also play a role.

There are good medical reasons why pronounced malformations should be corrected.

Unless the teeth are evenly spaced, so-called retention areas are bound to form and serve as a receptacle for food remnants.

As a result, malformed teeth are particularly susceptible to caries. And since the teeth cannot operate as they should, the gums are exposed to unequal stress, thus posing the additional threat of paradontosis and premature loss of teeth.

In most cases, too closely spaced teeth go hand in hand with a poor bite of which the patient is usually unaware.

There are also cases where such dental problems lead to malfunctioning of the lips.

An excessively receding lower jaw, for instance, makes it impossible to keep the lips completely closed while breathing, thus hampering their valve function and leading to the inhalation of cold air. The consequences are tonsilitis, adenoids and bronchial trouble.

Orthodontic work is therefore primarily necessary for medical reasons. In addition, the fact that teeth are not exposed to equal strain frequently causes paradontosis.

If left untreated, such malformations will remain a source of trouble. Even when the patient has lost all his teeth, it is extremely difficult to fit him with a well-functioning set of dentures.

When deciding on orthodontic work — which usually begins between the ages of 8 and 13 — it is necessary to take into account that the teeth are subject to negative influences even after the age of 15.

These influences affect both the teeth that have received orthodontic treatment and those that were in good condition and needed no treatment. This is one of the reasons why orthodontic work should not be done in cases of minor corrections.

There are two types of therapy. European dentists use removable plastic devices that make use of the chewing muscles to reshape the jaws.

American dentists, on the other hand, prefer wire braces which act on the individual teeth, permitting each tooth to be regulated separately.

The two methods have influenced each other and are frequently used in tandem.

The American method is considerably more expensive but the results are also more precise.

An orthodontic dentist must have the skill of an engineer. As technology progresses, it becomes increasingly impossible for a general dentist to do orthodontic work and specialisation becomes a must.

Dr Hermann Voss, an orthodontic dentist of Dortmund, deplores the fact that too many general dentists still do this tricky work without being suitably equipped.

Angela Heck

(Die Welt, 2 May 1981)

Continued from page 10

to limit considerably the unimpeded exploitation of nature.

Bernhard Gendron of Wisconsin assumed that a realisation of the rights of nature would come sooner or later.

Hans Sachsse of Mainz, the nestor of the philosophy of technology in Germany, favoured further development in "ascetic work" of such a valuable instrument as technology.

Even alternative technology remained technology, said Marxist Hans-Heinz Holz of Groningen. It changed nature by reflection and fulfilled basic human requirements.

All participants agreed with Joseph Margolis of Philadelphia that technology had become an indispensable feature of modern living.

It gave expression to mankind's desire for survival, said Elisabeth Ströker of Cologne. This required philosophers to deal with technology.

By thinking about modern technology current knowledge, so fragmented, might possibly arrive at a new hole.

This hope induced one of America's foremost specialists in the field, Paul Durbin of Delaware, to set up in Bad Homburg the Internation Society for the Philosophy of Technology.

Wolfgang Schirmacher

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 6 May 1981)

Resumption of heart transplants

The first heart transplant ope[...] for 12 years has been carried [...] Munich by Professor Fritz Sebening.

The recipient, a 37-year-old ma[n] about to die, says a press release [...] varia's Social Affairs Ministry. [...] been waiting for several weeks [...] suitable organ.

The heart he finally receiv[ed] taken from a 25-year-old man [...] in a traffic accident. The donor [...] led a special ID card authorising [...] after his death of any of his orga[ns].

According to medical bulle[tins] patient is doing as well as ca[n be ex]pected.

Professor Sebening, 51, has hea[ded] Munich Cardiovascular Centre [since] 1972. According to the Social [...] Ministry, he said that the [...] marked a new beginning.

The first such operation in Ge[rmany] was on 13 February 1969 at the [...] University Clinic. The team of [...] was headed by Professor Rudolf Z[...]

The operation went off withou[t com]plications, yet the patient died a[fter ...] hours.

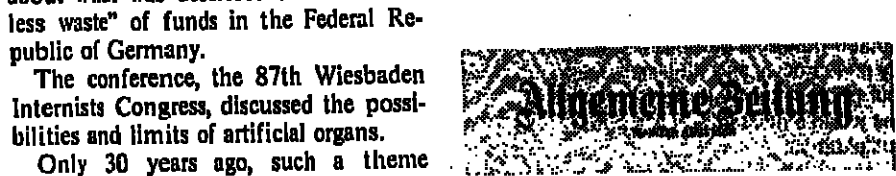
That surgery team included Prof[essors] Werner Klinner and Fritz Seb[ening] both of whom received their trai[ning in] the United States.

The second German heart tra[nsplant] was carried out on 27 March at the [...] hospital with Professor Klinner [...] the team. The patient died a day la[ter].

(Nordwest Zeitung, 8 May [...])

Medical research projects need money. Concern over the lack of money was a constant theme at an internists' conference in Wiesbaden.

Doctors discuss outlook for artificial organs



Many sarcastic remarks were made about what was described as the "senseless waste" of funds in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The conference, the 87th Wiesbaden Internists Congress, discussed the possibilities and limits of artificial organs.

Only 30 years ago, such a theme would have been utopian. It was then that the first artificial kidneys were undergoing tests which they ultimately failed. As a result, they disappeared into hospital basements.

Today, dialysis with such technical devices has become medical routine. New methods have been developed along with devices which the patient can operate himself.

And soon the sufferer from kidney disease will be able to carry an artificial organ with him and so become independent of the hospital.

Even so, only optimists believe that diseased hearts, lungs, livers or pancreas can be replaced by such apparatus.

The problems involved are enormous and even modern technology cannot overcome the natural limits set by the human body.

Professor Pfeiffer of Ulm told the congress that there is now a complete artificial pancreas, about the size of an average television set which controls the insulin supply by computer, adjusting it to the body's needs of the moment.

The device has enabled doctors to provide the patient with the exact amount of insulin needed within hours, making for an absolutely normal metabolism.

This is of inestimable importance in cases of major surgery or when a diabetic woman is to give birth to a child with a normal blood sugar content.

Even scaling the device down to the point where it can be implanted in the body is no insurmountable technical problem. But the glucose sensor which measures the sugar level in the blood and passes the data on to the computer becomes blocked with blood within hours, making the whole contraption useless.

A new method is now being developed which will measure the sugar level through the skin by means of a laser beam — but this is still in the distant future.

However, developments in the field of artificial organs are promising.

Experiments with synthetic blood and artificial skin are still so much in their infancy that the congress did not delve into them.

Work on artificial lungs or livers has also been unsuccessful — especially in the case of the liver with its great number of functions.

Here, researchers are now concentrating on replacing at least some of those functions by technical devices because experiments with animal livers have failed.

But there is a great deal of hope for heart patients. Bypass operations have become routine. Doctors recommen[d] this type of surgery be carried out [at an] early stage.

The replacement of heart valv[es,] they of plastic or some biological [mate]rial, has been continuously perf[ected] and pacemakers have meanwhile be[come] common. They have been so per[fected] that they now not only speed up [an ex]cessively sluggish heart but they ca[n] slow down a racing one.

Professor Bücherl, of Berlin, E[urope's] only specialist in the field of art[ificial] hearts, told the congress that [he] succeeded in developing a blood [pump] that can be implanted in the chest [cavi]ty and that is driven by a battery [outside] the body.

A suitable energy source has [mean]while been developed and can be c[arried] in a small case, enabling the pati[ent to] move relatively freely for several [...]

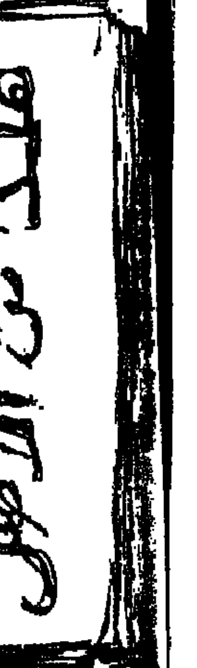
The "total artificial heart", wi[ll prob]ably only be possible for patient[s await]ing transplantation surgery and [...] a certain bridging period.

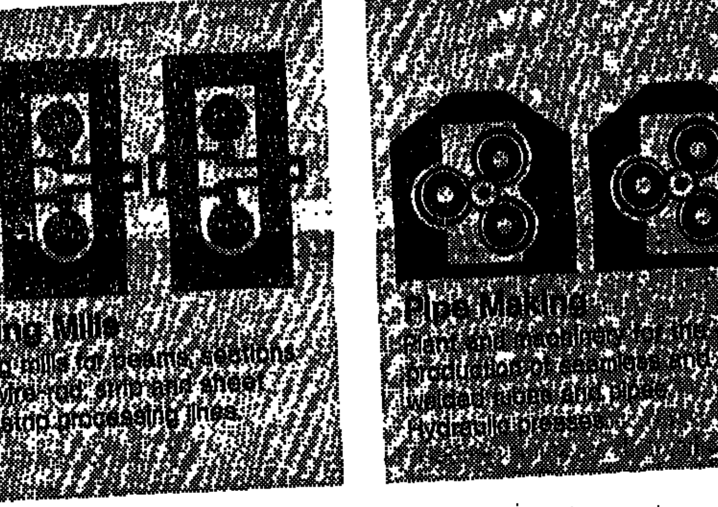
In initial experiments [...] Bücherl achieved survival p[eriods for] his type of artificial hea[rt of ...] months. He hopes for a surv[ival period] of to three years even if th[e patient is] condemned to carrying a lit[tle ...] with him wherever he goes.

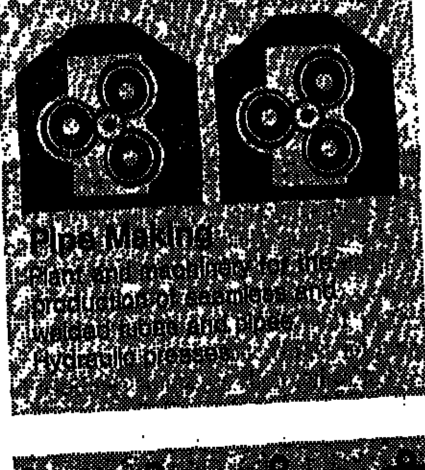
His ultimate aim, the totally [integ]rated heart, gives rise to mor[e ...] many pessimists are prepared [...]

Rotra[ut ...]

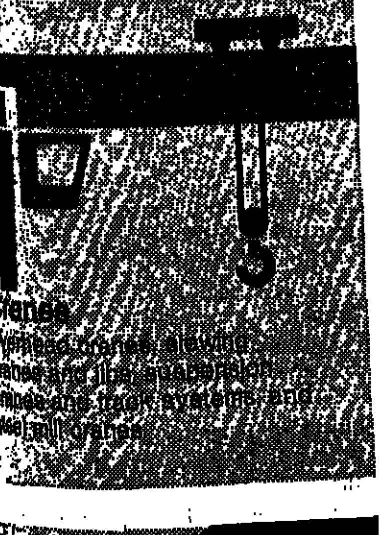
(Allgemeine Zeitung, 30 A[pril ...])

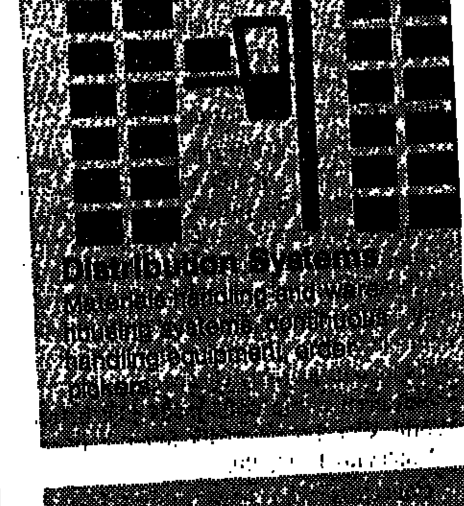


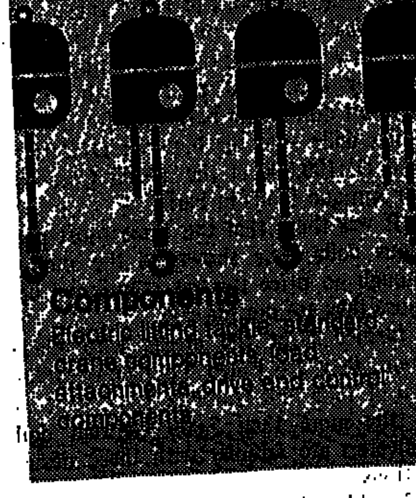


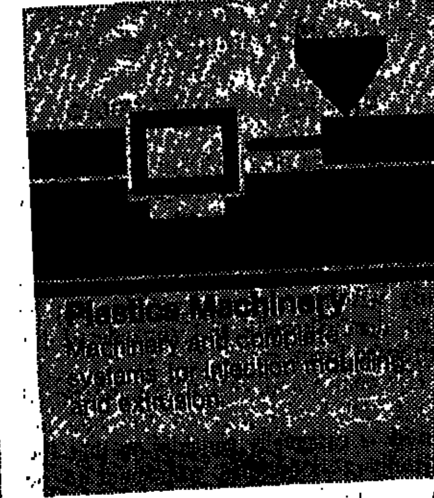




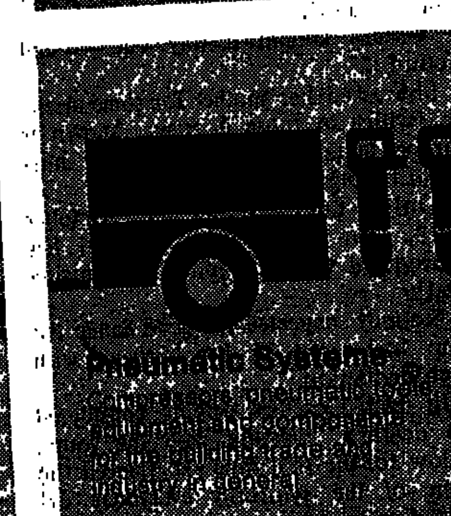












■ OUR WORLD

The Good Samaritan who was a mass killer

The crowd estimated at 35,000 gathered in the city centre of Bremen to see what was to become Germany's last public execution on 21 April 1831, just a few minutes after 8 a.m.

The wooden scaffold was draped in black linen and the executioner — a master of his craft — stood poised, sword in hand. The death candidate wore a white death robe with black piping and ribbons.

She shook hands with her judges and her attorney, who were to witness the execution from a special stand.

The story of Gesche Gottfried, who was beheaded on that day, has fired the imagination of bards and playwrights ever since.

There were even those who wanted to have her put on public show at the annual Bremen Fair, and none less than the great poet Adelbert von Chamisso wrote a poem on the event.

Rainer Werner Fassbinder turned her story into a drama and, in 1979, Karl Fruchtmann made a TV movie that was broadcast nation-wide.

All this creativity in the 150 years since the event was triggered by the question: what makes a woman from a good family poison all her relatives — father, mother, husbands, brother and children — plus an array of friends and acquaintances, using every opportunity that presented itself?

The first to delve into this question in great detail was Friedrich L. Voget, *Gottfried's defence counsellor.*

It is due to his notes that we are fully informed about her background and crimes.

Gesche was born in Bremen on 6 March 1785. Her father was a tailor and her mother a seamstress.

She was a good and intelligent student and was generally regarded as "attractive, industrious and obedient."

Marriage fulfils a dream that became nightmare

At the age of 21, she managed to fulfil her dream and become part of the emerging bourgeoisie by marrying Johann Gerhard Miltenberg.

But the marriage was not happy. Not only was her husband syphilitic but he also drank heavily and squandered his inherited fortune.

His young and vital wife was worried about the social position she had attained — especially considering that the Miltenberg homestead was about to be auctioned off.

Gesche sought a way out — and found it.

She asked her mother for some arsenic (which in those days was known as "mice butter") and poisoned her husband by degrees.

Only a few days later, on 1 October 1813, Herr Miltenberg — like all her subsequent victims — died an agonising death.

Nobody suspected the good Samaritan who had cared for her husband with such dedication.

In fact, Gesche's parents considered his death a "blessing" and the young widow for the first time experienced the balm of the sympathy everybody extended to her.

It is this atmosphere of other people's sympathy and cosseting which Voget saw as her actual motive.

Subsequent interpretations that dug even deeper saw Gesche's personality also in the light of the bigotry of her time.

It was the Biedermeier age with its restorative traits in the wake of the French revolution and the Napoleonic wars.

People were striving for "beauty" and an "intact world".

Piety and sentimentality were the prominent traits of the era.

Gesche, a widow by then, became a paragon of her society. She visited poorhouses, never without a gift; was a regular visitor to orphanages and a dedicated nurse of the sick. And it wasn't long before she became known as the "Angel of Bremen".

The many mysterious deaths that occurred in her house only added to her aura of a sorely tried woman. Gesche, the symbol of neighbourly love, frequently spoke of "trials visited upon her by God".

Her circle readily swallowed this and saw in her the embodiment of pious virtue.

But behind this facade she kept up a feverish activity. Lavishly, she distributed her gifts of "mice butter" whenever she felt like it — first to her parents, who opposed her marriage to the wine merchant Michael Christoph Gottfried, then to her three children, whom she blamed for Gottfried's inexplicable reluctance to marry her and, as the last of her family, to her twin brother Johann, who stood to inherit from her parents.

All these people were carried out of their homes feet first within a time span of a mere 13 months, between May 1815 and June 1816. Yet nobody suspected Gesche.

Only Gottfried, a sub -tenant in the Miltenberg home, mistrusted her. And instead of opposing he made a number of pretty clear allusions. So he, too, had to go — only a few days after having married her after all.

Gesche stayed in business, poisoning an irksome creditor, a friend, a small girl she did not even know, her housekeeper and child; next in line was Bremen merchant from whom she hoped to inherit, a young, happily married woman whom she considered a rival although the husband had never encouraged her.

She called it "giving a person something" and it became an obsession.

It was not until March 1828 that her conduct aroused suspicion and the series of murders was stopped after she had killed at least 30 people.

She was convicted of 15 premeditated murders.

Bremen was horrified and the people's ire demanded vengeance. The court — although doubting that Gesche Gottfried was fully responsible for her actions — went along with the people and condemned her.

But by the time the day of the execution came around the doubts had dissipated themselves.

The presiding judge's hands were firm as he "broke the stick" and ordered that her request for a glass of wine be met before she climbed the steps to the execution block, shaking with fear.

She was seized by the executioner's



Gesche Gottfried (Photo: ...

assistants, pushed into the chair, ... folded and strapped down.

Her head, which she was una... keep upright, was forced up by ... the assistants and held in position ... severed by a clean stroke of the sw...

Cheered by the crowds, the exe... ner took the handkerchief she ... spread in her lap and wiped the ... off the sword.

The spectacle was over, but the p... of Bremen have not forgotten it to day.

The place of the execution is m... by a large cobblestone with an eng... cross.

By tradition, citizens passing the... spit on it — be it out of revulsi... the woman's deeds or be it out of ... position to the execution procedure.

Bernd Stadelma...

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 25 April 19...)

DM37,000 sale dominates in international doll show

Business at the 3rd Wilhelmsbad Doll Exchange (held in Frankfurt because Wilhelmsbad Castle could not hold the crowd of more than 1,000) was brisk. A 90cm 1868 Bebe Schmitt character doll sold for DM37,500.

For some, dolls are status symbols; for others, investments; and for yet others they are simply the object of a collector's great passion. But all of these people, whatever their motives, are prepared to part with a great deal of money.

They DM37,500 paid for the Bebe Schmitt doll was a bargain. After all, similar dolls sold for between DM50,000 and DM100,000 at the World Congress for Antique Dolls in Paris.

It was there that the three most precious dolls were shown to the public, though no price tag was mentioned because they are not for sale.

Named after the artists who made them, they are called Thuillier of 1880, Bru of 1885 and Huret of 1867. And all of the more than 5,000 German doll collectors are familiar with these designations.

Matthias Wanke, the organiser of the Doll Exchange, had rallied more than 4,000 antique dolls from dealers the world over at Frankfurt's Frankfurter Hof Hotel.

Some of the dolls were barely the size of a thumb and others were as big as a 7-year-old child. Their total value was estimated at DM3m.

But there was also a wide array of "spare parts", such as heads, torsos, legs, arms and, of course, all the paraphernalia that goes with dolls like cutlery and crockery, dolls houses and prams.

The run-of-the-mill toys of yore, bought across the counter for a pittance, now fetch astronomic prices.

Of course, some of these old items were not bought across the counter at all but were commissioned to be made by prominent artists. The prices they now command are commensurate.

Thus discarded children's toys have become the coveted treasures of aficionados or shrewd investors.

While the old French dolls with their porcelain heads made in the late 19th century fetch top prices, and even their German counterparts of that era (Franz Schmidt, kleine Heuback, Simon und Halbig, Heinrich Handwek, Kemper, Reinhardt) are worth several thousand deutschemarks, the familiar celluloid dolls are considerably cheaper.

But even cheap dolls made just before World War I now easily fetch between DM800 and DM1,000.

Collectors who have to watch their pennies buy replicas of antique dolls. But even so, the price tag is in the region of DM850.

A small dolls house curtain sold for DM20 and a pair of dolls' earrings fetched DM150.

One exhibitor said he had a customer who recently had three rooms of her villa remodelled to accommodate her 100 dolls.

Said a Swiss dealer: "People collect dolls as a surrogate for things they didn't have in childhood — out of nostalgia for an intact world."

A German dealer who is also well known for her restoration work added: "I'm sorry that most people buy d... because they want to have what c... collectors have. It's sort of keeping ... with the Joneses. Those who know ... to create their own dolls' world ... dolls they love are few and far betwe..."

The very thing that others regar... business is considerably more for ... thias Wanke who looks at dolls ... piece of cultural history.

The history of dolls is closely ... with the history of man, says ... Wanke.

Man made dolls in his own ima... as a symbol so to speak.

There was a time when dolls ... object of religious adulation, when ... were put in grave or served as a ... charm.

There are still Babylonian dolls ... movable arms in existence, dating ... to 1500 BC.

There are also 3,000-year-old Egyp... dolls made of wood whose limbs ... also movable, and Greek dolls ... around 500 BC made from clay.

European adults of the Middle ... used court dolls for amusement.

The latest phase in the develop... history of dolls began only 500 ... ago when the doll became a child... toy.

Part of the proceeds of the Wilh... bad Doll Exchange is to be investe... the Wilhelmsbad Doll Museum, ... the planning stage.

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 30 Apri...)

SPORT

Lightweight boxer Weller to seek fortune as a professional

...ne Weller, nine times winner of the national amateur lightweight ...g title, wants to turn professional.

...eller, 27, says he has three years ... boxing in him and thinks he can ... a million deutschemarks.

... made the decision after losing to ...r Rybakov of the Soviet Union in ...uropean championships at Tam... Finland.

...as Weller's 305th fight and 22nd ...

...ateur officials shuddered percept... when he mentioned this unconscio... ...e sum of money.

...omasz Lempart, boxing coordinator ... the Federal Competitive Sports ...mittee, said:

"Weller is over and done with as far ...e amateurs are concerned. But not ...fred Jassmann. He, I reckon, is still ... the running."

This was hard to reconcile with what ...lleweight Jassmann, 28, had said be... the championships, especially as his ...ght is much more attractive profes...ally than lightweight Weller's.

Before his quarter-final bout in Fin... ...d Jassmann said: "By winning fights ...e at the European championships I ...n only boost my market value as a ...ofessional".

Weller, who may have lost to Rybakov but was generally conceded to have fought a fine bout was busy giving one interview after another.



Rene Weller . . . undaunted by European championship loss, he wants cash for his bruises. (Photo: Baumann)

"I was unlucky to have been drawn against him, of course. All the others are useless. I have beaten them all at some stage or other, some on several occasions."

Fast-talking Weller boxes for Bayern Leverkusen, the reigning German *Bundesliga* champions, but is clearly no longer in the running to fight for his country as an amateur.

That, as far as chief coach Dieter Wemhöner is concerned, is that. After a successful career Wemhöner too turned professional in his fighting days.

But Amateur Boxing Association president Siegfried Kordts was not so sure. "I have arranged a private interview with Weller, maybe the crucial interview, after the European championships.

"Of course, there is no way we can hope to match the amount of money he has in mind."

Since last autumn Weller has run a boxing studio in his home town Pforzheim, which is midway between Heidelberg and Karlsruhe.

But after a few bouts by way of build-up as a professional he aims to fight in America. "They're on the lookout for white boxers over there to lick their black champions," he says.

He reckons he is capable of doing it. No-one else in the amateur code agrees. Why, then, did he lose so clearly to Rybakov, who is two years younger?

Wemhöner said it was because he had not kept to his tactical plan. "His left lead was great, but his right was a catastrophe."

The Soviet boxer certainly put one mistake of Weller's to good use. "Ninety seconds before the final bell he scored a direct hit on my liver, something that had never happened to me in 304 bouts.

"The pain was so excruciating that it completely took me out of my stride." He did not directly attribute his defeat to his injured right index finger. A local anaesthetic had been given to kill the pain.

But: "It was like a block whenever I wanted to hit out with my right." Or so the nine-time national champion and European silver medallist at Cologne in 1979 said.

He also said that because of his injury he would not have carried on even if he had won the fight against Rybakov. His health was more important.

This is not an argument he is likely to be able to use as a professional. *dpa*

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 6 May 1981)

Spanish spanner in German footballing works



Udo Lattek . . . to Barcelona (Photo: Werek)

...F Barcelona, the Spanish soccer club, has twice upset the German *Bundesliga* management applecart. In ...5 Hennes Weisweiler, manager of ...chengladbach, signed for the Spa...rds.

Now Udo Lattek of Borussia Dortmund, another top-rank manager, has come to terms with Barcelona. Both left ... breach of their contracts with the ...man clubs.

There will have been three reasons ... Lattek took the plunge, the first ... unnaturally being financial: he is ...mored to be in line for netting ...000,000 a year with the Spanish ...

Second, Lattek, 46, cannot have seen much likelihood of transforming Borussia into a first-rate team.

Third, his son Dirk died in March aged 15. Lattek can hardly be blamed for wanting a change of scenery.

Yet that does not exonerate him. He must still come in for criticism. No-one can object to his decision to sign for Barcelona, but there is every objection to the way he went about it.

The Dortmund board had said the week before that it might be prepared to release him from a contract that was due to run until 1983 but he decided, after thinking matters over for several days, he was morally bound to stand by the German club.

These were fine words but clearly not strictly true. While the Dortmund board must have felt the heat was off he was still negotiating with Barcelona's emissaries and agreed to terms more or less out of the blue.

So much for moral obligations. One might not have welcomed but could hardly have argued about a straightforward decision in Barcelona's favour.

The way he went about it has done soccer and soccer managers a disservice. The game's reputation is already frayed at the edges; now it is even more tarnished.

Dortmund, Lattek and Senor Gaspart, vice-president of Barcelona, are now negotiating purportedly generous terms in settlement of Dortmund's claims.

But cash alone cannot offset the damage done.

H. G. Martin

(Rheinische Post, 12 May 1981)

Hamburg star falls foul of soccer's trial by TV

SV Hamburg player Horst Hrubesch is the latest in a growing list of footballers penalised because of television evidence.

He has been suspended for eight weeks for elbowing a Schalke 04 player. The referee didn't see, but millions of people did — on TV.

And so did members of the Football Association disciplinary committee.

Hrubesch appealed and lost.

The soccer *Bundesliga* is a TV league for most Germans. TV is what makes soccer stars, and it can unmake them just as easily.

So the medium has become something of the power behind the throne. In this case it meant that Hamburg, contenders for the championship, lost their ace scorer by television decision — and at a crucial stage of the season.

Who is doing what and to whom? TV can hardly be said to be ruining the game. It was TV that made soccer a kind of late-night Western.

The question to ask is surely whether fouls should only count when spotted during the game or also in retrospect after action replays.

The Football Association has long accepted the authority of the TV screen, much to the chagrin of Hans Kindermann, the sport's disciplinary watchdog.

"I have always objected to TV as a basis for disciplinary rulings," he says, "but the FA presidium has issued orders and they are binding on us.

"Irregularities seen on the TV screen but not noticed by the referee have to be penalised by the committee."



Horst Hrubesch . . . to sidelines (Photo: Wilfried Witters)

TV fouls are now increasing. And not everyone is happy with the procedure.

It is unsatisfactory in that fouls still go unnoticed at lower, untelevised levels of the game. So dual standards are applied.

Hrubesch has resigned himself to his fate: "They have their rules and regulations to observe. I don't feel Kindermann has been unfair to me."

But should soccers crown be subject to rules and regulations? Gone are the good old days of the game now the referee is backed by the TV camera.

Manfred Lehnen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 May 1981)